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EXAMINER

LE, MIRANDA

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/670,099	Applicant(s) VOLK ET AL.	
	Examiner MIRANDA LE	Art Unit 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-17 and 20-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-17 and 20-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/15/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/31/07 has been entered.

This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 03/06/08.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-17, 20-37 are pending in this application. This action is made non-Final.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement, filed 11/15/07, has been received, entered into the record, and considered. See attached form PTO-1449.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 17, 28, 36 are objected to as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 17 and 36 recite a limitation "tangible", which was not described in the specification. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "said network" in line 13 of claim 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 4, line 3, "defining a set..." should be changed to "define a set...". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 28 recites the limitation "said network" in line 14 of claim 28. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. § 101 reads as follows:

"Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title".

Claims 17, 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 17 fails to fall within a category of patentable subject matter set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101. The claim fails to place the invention squarely within one statutory class of invention. On page 28, paragraph [0110] of the instant specification, applicant has provided evidence that applicant intends the "medium" to include signals (i.e. "Some examples of computer program products are CD-ROM disks, ROM cards, floppy disks, magnetic tapes, computer hard drives, servers on a network, **and carrier waves**" (emphasis added)). From the excerpted paragraph, it is reasonable to interpret the computer readable medium is a carrier wave, the claim is hence drawn to a form of energy. Energy is not one of the four categories of invention and therefore

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this claim(s) is/are not statutory. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and thus is not a process. Energy is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not a combination of substances and therefor not a composition of matter. Therefore, the computer readable medium is an intangible embodiment and thus nonstatutory.

It is noted that having amended the claim to include "tangible" does not make the claim statutory unless the term "computer readable medium" should be changed to "computer storage readable medium", and the reference to "carrier waves" on page 28 should be deleted in order to comply with 101 issue.

Claim 36 incorporates the deficiencies of claim 17 and does not add tangibility to the claimed subject matter, it is likewise rejected.

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. **Claims 1, 4-5, 20-25, 28, 37 are provisionally rejected** under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3-4, 27, 30-31, respectively, of copending Application No. **10/459,341**. Although the conflicting claims are

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not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because of the reasons provided below.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Application 10/549,341	Current Application 10/670,099
Claim 1	Claim 1 (except limitation “compiling”, which reads on claims 8, 9, 11, or 13, 14, 15) Claim 24 (except limitation “compiling”, which reads on claims 8, 9, 11, or 13, 14, 15) Claim 25 (except limitation “compiling”, which reads on claims 8, 9, 11, or 13, 14, 15)
Claim 6	Claim 4 Claim 28
Claim 7	Claim 5
Claim 10 or 20 or 30	Claim 20
Claim 11 or 21, or 32	Claim 21
Claim 12 or 14 or 22 or 31	Claim 22
Claim 16 or 23	Claim 23

Claim 46	Claim 37
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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless:

(e) the invention was described in

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-17, 20-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McElhatten et al. (US Patent No. 7,174,126).

McElhatten anticipated independent claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 17, 24, 25, 28, 31, 37 by the following:

As per claim 1, McElhatten teaches a system comprising: one or more servers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) configured to:

generate an interface at a site on a network (*i.e. a "home" site for a programming network has been realized from which a user may access the network's affiliated program channels, and its products and services in general, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 3*) for display on a user computer (*i.e. a personal computer, col. 19, lines 7-13*), a plurality of media files (*i.e. CNN, CNN Headline News, CNN fn (Financial News), CNN Sports Illustrated, CNN Espanol, CNN*

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International, col. 2, lines 32-54) provided by a plurality of media file providers (i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54) being made available to said user computer via said network site using said interface (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

define a set of metadata attributes (i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30) relating to said media files (i.e. this user record is maintained, along with other user records, in storage (not shown) in headend 105, and contains, among others, a collection of IDs of the assets reserved by the user, col. 13, lines 29-65), each of said metadata attributes of the set is to be displayed in a respective predetermined locations in said interface (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) regardless of media file or media file provider (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

receive said plurality of media files (i.e. The identities of the reserved assets may be presented to the user in different formats or GUIs, e.g., in a My Shows list described below, col.

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13, lines 29-65, col. 13, lines 29-65) provided by said plurality of media file providers via the network, the received media files for user with said interface (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

associate metadata attributes form the set of metadata attributes with each of said received media files (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65); and*

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface for said user each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and file providers (*i.e. By selecting the option for viewing all upcoming episodes of a selected program, "View All Upcoming" GUI 5650 is displayed and enables a user to select among a display of all upcoming episodes of a specified program. The display lists all upcoming episodes*

of a selected program and the date that they are scheduled to broadcast. The list is limited to those episodes for which data may be available, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6),

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion (i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (*i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*).

As per claim 4, McElhatten teaches a system comprising: one or more servers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) configured to:

define a set of metadata attributes (*i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30*) relating to a plurality of media files (*i.e. this user record is maintained, along with other user records, in storage (not shown) in headend 105, and contains, among others, a collection of IDs of the assets reserved by the user, col. 13, lines 29-65*), each of said metadata attributes in the set is to be displayed in a respective predetermined location in an interface (*i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30*), said respective predetermined location for a given metadata attribute being a same location in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely*

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access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

associate metadata attributes from within said defined set of metadata attributes with said plurality of media files, wherein said plurality of media files is provided by a plurality of media file providers (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface, said interface generated at a site on said network (i.e. a "home" site for a programming network has been realized from which a user may access the network's affiliated program channels, and its products and services in general, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 3), said media files being made available to a user computer via said network site using said interface (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource

locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13); and

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, such that in said interface each of said associated media attributes appears in its respective predetermined same location for all of said media files and media file providers (*i.e. By selecting the option for viewing all upcoming episodes of a selected program, "View All Upcoming" GUI 5650 is displayed and enables a user to select among a display of all upcoming episodes of a specified program. The display lists all upcoming episodes of a selected program and the date that they are scheduled to broadcast. The list is limited to those episodes for which data may be available, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6), wherein said interface comprises:*

a channel description portion (i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel

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selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and*

an episode description portion (i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 7, McElhatten teaches a method comprising:

compiling a data file (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the

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asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65) that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify one or more media files (i.e. CNN, CNN Headline News, CNN fn (Financial News), CNN Sports Illustrated, CNN Espanol, CNN International, col. 2, lines 32-54);

determining whether a user-selectable autoplay function is engaged for a given one of said plurality of users (*i.e. Various Settings enable customization of the operation and navigation of the user interface. In one embodiment, such settings may include: Blocked Channels, Excluded Channels, Power On Channel, Power On Timer, Power Off Timer, SAP and Out-Of-Market, col. 30, lines 49-58*);

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged, determining a sequence (*i.e. available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*) in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to one or more media files based on an ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file (*i.e. Terminals 158 may also have power on and power off timers. A power on timer enables the terminal to turn on at one or more predetermined times during designated days. For example, a user that wakes up for work at 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, may want to set the terminal to automatically turn on at such time. Similarly, power off timer designates a specific time in which the terminal is turned off. In another embodiment, a user can program the terminal to turn off after a certain amount of time has transpired (e.g., 2 hours), col. 31, lines 8-17*) and

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged, determining the sequence (*i.e. available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*) in which said

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user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more media files based on input from the user and without regard to the ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file (*i.e.*

Excluded Channels are those channels that a user programs to be temporarily skipped when the user at terminal 158-1 is channeling up or down. A user may choose to exclude a channel because it is rarely viewed by the user and therefore it is more convenient for the user not to have to navigate through such channel, col. 30, lines 48-64);

wherein said media content is experienced using an interface that comprises:

a channel description portion (*i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64*) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);*

a show description portion (*i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30*) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which*

includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 12, McElhatten teaches a system comprising: one or more servers configured to:

compile a data file that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify one or more pieces of content (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information

and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

determine whether a user-selectable autoplay function is engaged for a given one of said plurality of users (*i.e. Excluded Channels are those channels that a user programs to be temporarily skipped when the user at terminal 158-1 is channeling up or down. A user may choose to exclude a channel because it is rarely viewed by the user and therefore it is more convenient for the user not to have to navigate through such channel, col. 30, lines 48-64);*

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged, determining a sequence (*i.e. available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*) in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on an ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file (*i.e. Terminals 158 may also have power on and power off timers. A power on timer enables the terminal to turn on at one or more predetermined times during designated days. For example, a user that wakes up for work at 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, may want to set the terminal to automatically turn on at such time. Similarly, power off timer designates a specific time in which the terminal is turned off. In another embodiment, a user can program the terminal to turn off after a certain amount of time has transpired (e.g., 2 hours), col. 31, lines 8-17); and*

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be disengaged, determining the sequence (*i.e. available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*) in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on input from the user and without regard to the ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file (*i.e. Excluded Channels are those channels that a user programs to be temporarily skipped when*

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the user at terminal 158-1 is channeling up or down. A user may choose to exclude a channel because it is rarely viewed by the user and therefore it is more convenient for the user not to have to navigate through such channel, col. 30, lines 48-64),

wherein said media content is experienced using an interface that comprises:

a channel description portion (i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (*i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*).

As per claim 17, McElhatten teaches a tangible computer readable medium storing computer code to configure one or more processors to:

compile a data file that contains one or more unique identifiers which identify one or more pieces of content (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*);

determine whether a user-selectable autoplay function is engaged for a given one of said plurality of users (*i.e. Various Settings enable customization of the operation and navigation of*

the user interface. In one embodiment, such settings may include: Blocked Channels, Excluded Channels, Power On Channel, Power On Timer, Power Off Timer, SAP and Out-Of-Market, col. 30, lines 49-58);

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be engaged, determining a sequence (*i.e. available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*) in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on an ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file (*i.e. Terminals 158 may also have power on and power off timers. A power on timer enables the terminal to turn on at one or more predetermined times during designated days. For example, a user that wakes up for work at 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, may want to set the terminal to automatically turn on at such time. Similarly, power off timer designates a specific time in which the terminal is turned off. In another embodiment, a user can program the terminal to turn off after a certain amount of time has transpired (e.g., 2 hours), col. 31, lines 8-17*); and

in a case that the autoplay function is determined to be disengaged, determining the sequence (*i.e. available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65*) in which said user is to experience media content corresponding to said one or more pieces of content based on input from the user and without regard to the ordering of said unique identifiers in the data file (*i.e. Excluded Channels are those channels that a user programs to be temporarily skipped when the user at terminal 158-1 is channeling up or down. A user may choose to exclude a channel because it is rarely viewed by the user and therefore it is more convenient for the user not to have to navigate through such channel, col. 30, lines 48-64*),

wherein said media content is experienced using an interface that comprises:

a channel description portion (*i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64*) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58*);

a show description portion (*i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30*) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58*); and

an episode description portion (*i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those*

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two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 24, McElhatten teaches a method comprising:

generating an interface at a site on a network (i.e. a "home" site for a programming network has been realized from which a user may access the network's affiliated program channels, and its products and services in general, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 3) for display on a user computer (i.e. a personal computer, col. 19, lines 7-13), a plurality of media files (i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54) provided by more than one content provider being made available to said user computer via said network site using said interface (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

authenticating said user's authorization to access certain media content (i.e. Blocked Channels are those that are key protected and prevents unauthorized viewing of such channels. One example in which channels are blocked is where parents want to restrict access of one or

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more channels to their children because the content offered by such channels may be considered inappropriate, col. 30, line 65 to col. 31, line 3);

define a set of metadata attributes (i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30) relating to said media files (i.e. this user record is maintained, along with other user records, in storage (not shown) in headend 105, and contains, among others, a collection of IDs of the assets reserved by the user, col. 13, lines 29-65), each of said metadata attributes of the set is to be displayed in a respective predetermined locations (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

receive said plurality of media files (i.e. The identities of the reserved assets may be presented to the user in different formats or GUIs, e.g., in a My Shows list described below, col. 13, lines 29-65, col. 13, lines 29-65) provided by said plurality of media file providers via the network, the received media files for user with said interface (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and

registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

wherein said plurality of media files comprises only the user's authorized media content *(i.e. Blocked Channels are those that are key protected and prevents unauthorized viewing of such channels. One example in which channels are blocked is where parents want to restrict access of one or more channels to their children because the content offered by such channels may be considered inappropriate, col. 30, line 65 to col. 31, line 3);*

associate metadata attributes form the set of metadata attributes with each of said received media files *(i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65); and*

wherein the metadata attributes comprises a title for each media file *(i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30); and*

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and file providers *(i.e. By selecting the option for viewing all upcoming episodes of a selected program, "View All*

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Upcoming" GUI 5650 is displayed and enables a user to select among a display of all upcoming episodes of a specified program. The display lists all upcoming episodes of a selected program and the date that they are scheduled to broadcast. The list is limited to those episodes for which data may be available, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6),

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion (i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program

description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 25, McElhatten teaches a system comprising: one or more servers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) configured to:

generate an interface at a site on a network (i.e. a "home" site for a programming network has been realized from which a user may access the network's affiliated program channels, and its products and services in general, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 3) for display on a user computer (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13), said interface comprising a region to display

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media content of a plurality of media files (*i.e. CNN, CNN Headline News, CNN fn (Financial News), CNN Sports Illustrated, CNN Espanol, CNN International, col. 2, lines 32-54*) provided by a plurality of media file providers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) and being made available to said user computer via said network site, a region to display selectable indicia corresponding to one or more playlists, a region to display indicia of each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58*);

a region to display selectable indicia of an autoplay function (*i.e. Various Settings enable customization of the operation and navigation of the user interface. In one embodiment, such settings may include: Blocked Channels, Excluded Channels, Power On Channel, Power On Timer, Power Off Timer, SAP and Out-Of-Market, col. 30, lines 49-58*) configured to control an order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists is to be experienced using said interface (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045,*

program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

define a set of metadata attributes (i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30) relating to said media files (i.e. this user record is maintained, along with other user records, in storage (not shown) in headend 105, and contains, among others, a collection of IDs of the assets reserved by the user, col. 13, lines 29-65), each of said metadata attributes of the set is to be displayed in a respective predetermined locations (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

receive said plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file providers via the network, the received media files for user with said interface (i.e. The identities of the reserved assets may be presented to the user in different formats or GUIs, e.g., in a My Shows list described below, col. 13, lines 29-65, col. 13, lines 29-65);

associate metadata attributes from the set of metadata attributes with each of said received media files (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also

transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65); and

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and said media file providers (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65),*

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion (*i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64*) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel*

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indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 28, McElhatten teaches a system comprising: one or more servers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) configured to:

define a set of metadata attributes (*i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30*) relating to a plurality of media files (*i.e. this user record is maintained, along with other user records, in storage (not shown) in headend 105, and contains, among others, a collection of IDs of the assets reserved by the user, col. 13, lines 29-65*), each of said metadata attributes in the set is to be displayed in a respective predetermined location in an interface (*i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30*), said respective predetermined location for a given metadata attribute being a same location in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13*);

associate metadata attributes from within said defined set of metadata attributes with said plurality of media files, wherein said plurality of media files is provided by a plurality of media file providers (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset*

containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

utilize the metadata attributes to map the plurality of media files to an interface for display on a user computer (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13*), said interface generated at a site on said network and comprising a region to display media content of said plurality of media files, a region to display selectable indicia corresponding to one or more playlists, a region to display indicia of each media file identified by a selected one of said playlists (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58*); and

a region to display selectable indicia of an autoplay function (*i.e. Various Settings enable customization of the operation and navigation of the user interface. In one embodiment, such settings may include: Blocked Channels, Excluded Channels, Power On Channel, Power On Timer, Power Off Timer, SAP and Out-Of-Market, col. 30, lines 49-58*) configured to control an

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order in which each media file identified by a selected one of said playlists is to be experienced using said interface (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and*

map each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, such that in said interface each of said associated media attributes appears in its respective predetermined location for all of said media files and media file providers (*i.e. By selecting the option for viewing all upcoming episodes of a selected program, "View All Upcoming" GUI 5650 is displayed and enables a user to select among a display of all upcoming episodes of a specified program. The display lists all upcoming episodes of a selected program and the date that they are scheduled to broadcast. The list is limited to those episodes for which data may be available, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6),*

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion (*i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64)* comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel*

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indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58);

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 31, McElhatten teaches a method comprising:

generating an interface at a site on a network (*i.e. a "home" site for a programming network has been realized from which a user may access the network's affiliated program channels, and its products and services in general, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 3*) for display on a user computer (*i.e. a personal computer, col. 19, lines 7-13*), said interface comprising a region to display media content of a plurality of media files provided by a plurality of media file providers and being made available to said user computer via said network site (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13*), a region to display selectable indicia corresponding to one or more playlists, a region to display indicia of each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*), and a region to display selectable indicia of an autoplay function configured to control an order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlists (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560.*

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When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6) is to be experienced using said interface (i.e. Various Settings enable customization of the operation and navigation of the user interface. In one embodiment, such settings may include: Blocked Channels, Excluded Channels, Power On Channel, Power On Timer, Power Off Timer, SAP and Out-Of-Market, col. 30, lines 49-58);

authenticating said user's authorization to access certain media content (i.e. Blocked Channels are those that are key protected and prevents unauthorized viewing of such channels. One example in which channels are blocked is where parents want to restrict access of one or more channels to their children because the content offered by such channels may be considered inappropriate, col. 30, line 65 to col. 31, line 3);

defining a set of metadata attributes (i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30) relating to said media files, each of said metadata attributes of the set to be displayed in a respective predetermined location (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a

predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

receiving said plurality of media files for user with said interface (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

associating metadata attributes form the set of metadata attributes with each of said plurality of media files (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65);

wherein the metadata attributes comprises a title for each media file (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30);

mapping each of said associated metadata attributes to its respective predetermined location in said interface, so that in said interface each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and

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said media file providers (*i.e. By selecting the option for viewing all upcoming episodes of a selected program, "View All Upcoming" GUI 5650 is displayed and enables a user to select among a display of all upcoming episodes of a specified program. The display lists all upcoming episodes of a selected program and the date that they are scheduled to broadcast. The list is limited to those episodes for which data may be available, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*),

filtering said plurality of media files based on said user's authorization to access certain media content such that said user interface includes selectable indicia for only those media files corresponding to said certain media content(*i.e. Blocked Channels are those that are key protected and prevents unauthorized viewing of such channels. One example in which channels are blocked is where parents want to restrict access of one or more channels to their children because the content offered by such channels may be considered inappropriate, col. 30, line 65 to col. 31, line 3*),

wherein said interface comprises:

a channel description portion (*i.e. channel information regarding specific shows, col. 19, lines 49-64*) comprising one or more channel selections to access the plurality of media files provided by the plurality of media file providers (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58*);

a show description portion (*i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30*) to display one or more show selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more channel selections said show description portion displays one or more show selections corresponding to the chosen channel selection (*i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58*); and

an episode description portion (*i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*).

As per claim 37, McElhatten teaches a system comprising:

one or more servers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) configured to:

generate an interface at a site on a network (*i.e. a "home" site for a programming network has been realized from which a user may access the network's affiliated program channels, and its products and services in general, col. 2, line 55 to col. 3, line 3*)

for display on a user computer, media files (*i.e. CNN, CNN Headline News, CNN fn (Financial News), CNN Sports Illustrated, CNN Espanol, CNN International, col. 2, lines 32-54*) provided by a plurality of media file providers (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54*) being made available to said user computer via said network site using said interface (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13*);

define a set of metadata attributes (*i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30*) relating to said media files (*i.e. this user record is maintained, along with other user records, in storage (not shown) in headend 105, and contains, among others, a collection of IDs of the assets reserved by the user, col. 13, lines 29-65*), each of said metadata attributes of the set is to be displayed in a respective predetermined location (*i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30*) in said interface regardless of media file or media file provider (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a*

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personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13);

receive said a plurality of media files provided by said plurality of media file providers via the network (i.e. The identities of the reserved assets may be presented to the user in different formats or GUIs, e.g., in a My Shows list described below, col. 13, lines 29-65, col. 13, lines 29-65), the received media files for use with said interface (i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6);

associate metadata attributes from the set of metadata attributes with each of said received media files (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65); and

map each of said associated metadata attributes (i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address)

identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65) to its respective predetermined location in said interface (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30), so that in said interface for said user each of said associated metadata attributes appears at its respective predetermined location in said interface for all of said media files and media file providers (i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 may be a component of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13),

wherein said interface comprises:

a show description portion (i.e. a user's Favorite Show list, col. 14, lines 14-30) to display one or more show selections (i.e. by pressing guide key 920 on remote control 900 while viewing program channel display 1010 in FIG. 18 (which may be a live or played back TV show, movie, music video, service or the like), a user may access interactive program guide 1020, which includes program viewing window 1040, current time and channel indicator 1045, program description box 1050, program grid 1060 and menu display 1065. In one embodiment, menu display 1065 lists three menu choices available to the user, col. 19, lines 34-58); and

an episode description portion (*i.e. a listed episode, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*) to display one or more episode selections, and in response to a chosen one of the one or more show selections said episode description portion displays one or more episode selections corresponding to the chosen show selection (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*).

As per claim 3, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 1 wherein one or more servers are further configured to generate a media player interface for experiencing the media content (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6*).

As per claim 5, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 4 further comprising: a local database for storing the metadata attributes (*i.e. FIG. 17 illustrates an arrangement in which a user may remotely access headend 105 to reserve a program through the Internet. For example, a user may utilize a personal computer (PC) having web interface 192 to access program guide*

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server 195 over the Internet 194 at a predetermined uniform resource locator (URL). Program guide server 195 macomponent of headend 105, col. 19, lines 7-13).

As per claim 8, McElhatten teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the data file is automatically compiled based on some criteria (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65).*

As per claim 9, McElhatten teaches the method of claim 8 wherein the data file is automatically compiled based on some criteria chosen by one of the plurality of uses (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65).*

As per claim 10, McElhatten teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the data file is compiled manually (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).*

As per claim 11, McElhatten teaches the method of claim 7 wherein the one or more media files are provided by more than one source (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54).*

As per claim 13, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 12 wherein the data file is automatically compiled (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65).*

As per claim 14, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 13 wherein the data file is automatically compiled based on criteria chosen by one of the plurality of users (*i.e. Information concerning the program channel to which terminal 158-1 tunes at that point, and an IP address (and/or MAC address) identifying terminal 158-1 are also transmitted to media processor 119. Based on the received IP address, processor 119 retrieves a user record associated with terminal 158-1, and registers in the record the ID of the asset containing the reserved program which is identifiable by the received marking information and program channel information, and which is made available to the user for subsequent playback, col. 13, lines 29-65).*

As per claim 15, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 12 wherein the data file is compiled manually (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).*

As per claim 16, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 12 the one more media files are provided by more than one source (*i.e. CNN network, NBC network, HBO network, col. 2, lines 32-54).*

As per claim 20, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 1 wherein said metadata attributes comprises a title for the media file (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).*

As per claim 21, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 1 wherein said metadata attributes comprises a description for the media file. (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).*

As per claim 22, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 1 wherein said metadata attributes comprises a duration for the media file (*i.e. a user record, col. 13, lines 29-65; asset metadata may describe attributes that are inherent in the content of the asset, such as the rating, format, duration, size, or encoding method. Values for asset metadata are determined at the time the asset is created, col. 6, lines 14-30).*

As per claim 23, McElhatten teaches the system of claim 1 wherein said metadata attributes comprise an expiration date for the media file (*i.e. In any event, a notice may be issued to users, notifying the users about the programs which are about to expire for reservation, e.g., 24 hours before their expiration, col. 17, lines 37-49*).

As to claims 26, 29, 32, McElhatten teaches said autoplay function (*i.e. Various Settings enable customization of the operation and navigation of the user interface. In one embodiment, such settings may include: Blocked Channels, Excluded Channels, Power On Channel, Power On Timer, Power Off Timer, SAP and Out-Of-Market, col. 30, lines 49-58*) is configured to control whether said order in which each of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlist is determined based on contents of said selected one of said playlists or based on user input (*i.e. Terminals 158 may also have power on and power off timers. A power on timer enables the terminal to turn on at one or more predetermined times during designated days. For example, a user that wakes up for work at 6:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, may want to set the terminal to automatically turn on at such time. Similarly, power off timer designates a specific time in which the terminal is turned off. In another embodiment, a user can program the terminal to turn off after a certain amount of time has transpired (e.g., 2 hours), col. 31, lines 8-17*).

As to claims 27, 30, 33, McElhatten teaches said user input comprises selection of one or more of said indicia of said plurality of media files identified by a selected one of said playlist (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then*

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prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).

As per claim 34, 35, 36, McElhatten teaches:

determining media content other than said media content corresponding to said one or more media files for said user to experience while waiting for said user input (*i.e. every episode scheduled to broadcast in those two weeks is displayed. The user is then prompted to select among listed program episodes 5655 of View All Upcoming GUI 5560. When the user selects a listed episode by, for example, highlighting the desired episode and pressing select key 960 of remote control 900, the user is provided with options for reserving future programs as described below with reference to FIG. 14, col. 14, line 58 to col. 15, line 6).*

Response to Arguments

With respect to claims 1, 3-5, 7-17, 20-37, Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 17, 24, 25, 28, 31 to recite new limitations to overcome the cited arts. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior arts.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham, can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax number to this Art Unit is (571)-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Miranda Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2167